


# Sing and Play

## Sing For Recycling

### Goal:

 To have these catchy tunes stick in children's minds so they will think about recycling at home, school and play.

### Background:

Singing is a fun way to reinforce the things you have been learning about with recycling. Learning a new song is easy when you already know the tune and can act out the lyrics. Make musical instruments (see "Wee Recyclers Band") and play along as you sing.

### "The Bottle is Recycled"

*(Sing to the tune of "Hi Ho the Dairy-O.")*

The bottle is recycled,  
The bottle is recycled,  
Hi ho the dairy-o,  
The bottle is recycled.

#### Variations:

The newspaper is recycled, . . .  
The aluminum can is recycled, . . .  
The plastic jug is recycled, . . .  
The tin can is recycled, . . .



### "Mary Had a Bag of Trash"

*(Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb.")*

Mary had a bag of trash  
Bag of trash  
Bag of trash  
Mary had a bag of trash  
She thought she'd throw away.  
She heard our landfill will be full  
Will be full  
Will be full  
She heard our landfill will be full  
And began to recycle now.  
She kept aluminum cans and glass  
Cans and glass  
Cans and glass  
She kept aluminum cans and glass  
They can be used again.  
She saved newspaper and plastic, too  
Plastics numbered  
One and two  
She saved newspaper and plastic, too  
They can be used again.

### "If You Help to Recycle"

*(Sing to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It.")*

If you help to recycle,  
Clap your hands.  
If you help to recycle,  
Clap your hands.  
If you help to recycle,  
Then our earth will surely show it,  
If you help to recycle,  
Clap your hands.

#### Variations:

Stomp your feet, Nod your head, Shout "Hurray"

### "Clean Up All the Litter"

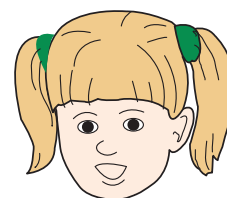
*(Sing to the tune of "Hokey Pokey.")*

Put your litter bag in. Take your litter bag out.  
Put your litter bag in, then you shake it all about.  
You clean up all the litter and you turn yourself  
around,  
That's what it's all about!  
Put your paper in. Take your paper out.  
Put your paper in, then you shake it all about.  
You clean up all the litter and you turn yourself  
around,  
That's what it's all about!

### "Recycling Is the Way"

*(Sing to the tune of "Jingle Bells.")*

Recycling is the way,  
To handle trash today,  
No more landfill here,  
There is a better way.  
Just separate your trash,  
In boxes oh-so neat,  
Plastic, paper, metal, glass  
Recycling can't be beat.



#### Chorus:

Save your glass, save your paper, save your metal, too!  
Show you neighbors that you care – it's the thing to do.  
(repeat)

## “Wee Recyclers Rap”

Wee Recyclers is our name  
Recyclin’ is our game.  
Stackin’ our newspapers black and white,  
Wrappin’ them up and tiein’ them tight.  
Aluminum cans you get with pop,  
Crushin’ them flat with just one stomp.  
Magnets stickin’ to cans of tin,  
Watch out for that very sharp rim.  
Recyclin’ glass is really keen,  
All different colors like brown, clear and green.  
Broken bottles can cut; they’re sharp.  
When handling glass, take care – be smart!  
Bottles made from molded plastic,  
Rinsin’ and squishin’, that’s fantastic!  
The numbers tell you what to do,  
Look on the bottom for a one or two.  
Recycling rap is at its end,  
Recycle, too and be earth’s friend!

**Action ideas:** Sway your body and clap your hands to a rap beat. Pretend to do all of the actions described in each of the verses.



(Repeat 3 times)

Squish me down!

RECYCLE! (slowly stand back up and make yourself into a ‘new’ can)

D o-do-do-do-do-do

(Repeat 3 times)

RECYCLE!

Repeat the whole song again, showing how the recycle cycle can occur over and over again.

Explain that the song continues each time the children put a can in the recycling bin. It can be the song that never ends!

## “Going on a Trash Hunt”

*(To the tune of Going on a Bear Hunt.)*

(children repeat each line)

REPEAT EACH PHRASE... slap thighs throughout.

Goin’ on a litter hunt (repeat)

I’m not afraid (repeat)

Got a real good friend (children hug each other during this part...repeat)

By my side (repeat)

Oh, Oh (repeat)

What do I see? (repeat)

Oh look! It’s some tall grass! (repeat)

Can’t go over it (repeat)

Can’t go under it (repeat)

Can’t go around it (repeat)

Got to go through it (repeat and make motions with arms like you are clearing a way thru grass)

Goin on a litter hunt (repeat)

I’m not afraid ( repeat)

Got a real good friend (repeat with hugs)

By my side.(repeat)

Oh, Oh! (repeat)

What do I see? (repeat)

Oh look! It’s a tall tree.(repeat)

Can’t go over it (repeat)

Can’t go under it (repeat)

Can’t go through it (repeat)

Got to climb up it (Repeat and pretend to climb up the tree)

Goin on a litter hunt (repeat)

I’m not afraid ( repeat)

Got a real good friend (repeat with hugs)

By my side.(repeat)

Oh, Oh! (repeat)

What do I see? (repeat)

Oh look! It’s a wide river. (repeat)

Can’t go over it (repeat)

Can’t go under it (repeat)

## “Five Little Bottles”

*(Sing with hand movements.)*

5 little bottles sitting in a row,

1 was recycled, then there were 4.

4 little bottles sitting in a row,

1 was recycled, then there were 3.

3 little bottles . . .

2 little bottles . . .

1 little bottle sitting in a row,

It was recycled and then there were none to be thrown away.

## “I’m A Can”

*(Sing with hand movements and to the tune of “Baby Shark.”)*

I’m a can, (Make a circle with your arms in front of your chest)

Do-do-do-do-do-do

(Repeat 3 times)

I’m a can!

Drink me up, (Lean back as if you are the can and someone is ‘drinking’ you)

Gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp

(Repeat 3 times)

Drink me up!



Squish me down! (Wiggle back and forth, getting closer to the floor each time)

D o-do-do-do-do-do

Can't go through it (repeat)  
 Got to swim across it. (Repeat and pretend to swim)  
 Goin on a litter hunt (repeat)  
 I'm not afraid ( repeat)  
 Got a real good friend (repeat with hugs)  
 By my side.(repeat)  
 Oh, Oh! (repeat)  
 What do I see? (repeat)  
 Oh look! A deep, dark cave. (repeat)  
 Can't go over it (repeat)  
 Can't go under it (repeat)  
 Can't go through it (repeat)  
 Got to go in it. (repeat and close eyes as you pretend to enter the cave)  
 Oh,oh! It's dark in here. (repeat)  
 I feel something (repeat)  
 It feels pretty smooth! (repeat)  
 It seems really squished! (repeat)  
 It's litter!! (Pull out a plastic bottle or other type of litter from behind your chair; children love to scream this part)  
 (At this point, increase the speed of your thigh slapping and swim back through the river, back up and down the tree, back through the tall grass, till you get safely back to a garbage can or recycling bin to place the litter inside.)  
 I'm not afraid! (Repeat)

## Wee Recyclers Band

### Goals:

-  To make instruments from reusable and recyclable materials.
-  To experiment making different sounds.

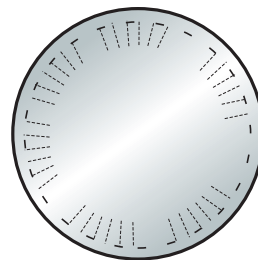
### Background:

Children love to make noise. Here are some ideas for making simple and inexpensive instruments with your children. Use this opportunity to experiment with creating different sounds. Discover how the tighter rubber is stretched, the higher the pitch it makes. Find out what materials will make the loudest or softest rattles. Try to guess what an object is in a container just by shaking it.

## Tambourine

### Materials:

Two aluminum tins from pot  
 pies or frozen pies  
 Four metal bottle caps  
 Stapler



### Procedure:

1. Have the children put the bottle caps inside one of the pie tins. Place the other pie tin on top of the first so that the two rims match up.
2. Staple all around the edges of the pie tins.
3. Shake!

## Recycle Rattles

### Materials:

A reusable container: milk cartons, yogurt cups, margarine tubs, medicine bottles, small jars or boxes, soda cans, juice cans, etc.

Rattle material: uncooked rice, dried peas or beans, buttons, paper clips, a rubber eraser, marbles, pasta, rocks, sand, etc.

Crayons

Tape

### Procedure:

1. Let the children design the outside of the container with crayons.
2. Have children choose what materials they want to put into their container (only a small amount is needed). Loudness will depend on the material put inside and the hardness of the container. Experiment with different types of materials for different sounds.
3. Cover container tightly and secure with a few pieces of tape.
4. Shake!

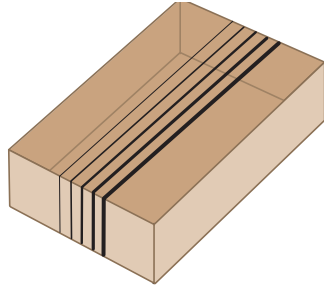


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## Guitar

### Materials:




Shoe box, cigar box  
Rubber bands of different  
size and width  
Crayons or markers



### Procedure:

1. Remove the cover from the box.
2. Let children color and design the outside of the box with crayons or markers.
3. Give each child a few different sized rubber bands to stretch across the opening of the box.
4. Strum across the rubber bands with your fingers or other objects.
5. Ask the children which rubber bands make the highest sound.

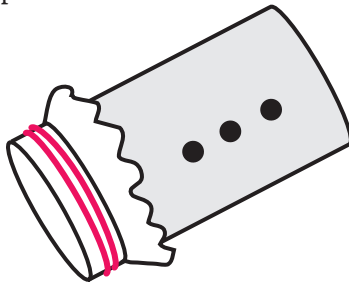
### Going Beyond:

-  Use these instruments to accompany the songs in the “Sing for Recycling” section.
-  Talk about the materials that were used to make these instruments.
-  Have your children think of other instruments that can be made from reusable items. For example, put thimbles on your fingers and strum across an old washboard, hit two spoons together, or partially fill several glass bottles with water and tap the bottles gently with a metal spoon to make various sounds.

## Flute

### Materials:

Empty toilet paper or paper towel roll  
Rubber band  
Wax paper  
Pencil  
Crayons or markers  
Scissors



### Procedure:

1. Let the children decorate the paper roll with crayons or markers.
2. Help them poke three or four holes in the roll using a sharp pencil.
3. Cut or rip a circle from the wax paper that is about two inches wider than the diameter of the roll.
4. Children can help wrap the wax paper around one open end of the roll. Make sure it is tight and smooth. Secure the wax paper in place with a rubber band.
5. Hold the open end of the flute to your mouth and hum or blow into the roll.